

Wilford Hall and Kelly Consolidate Mammography Services

The Kelly Air Force Base clinic will now be referring all patients requiring a mammogram to the Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base. The initiative, effective July 1, will improve patient services and better utilize medical resources.



Senior Airman Jamie Polson positions a patient for a mammogram. Polson is a mammography technician at Wilford Hall Medical Center.

With increasing breast cancer awareness, patients' needs and concerns have also increased Air Force-wide. This has led to a higher standard of care that can be readily obtained at Wilford Hall Medical Center but not Kelly Clinic. Patients receive the results of their mammograms the same day. "Patients don't have to make two appointments if they need additional views after their mammogram," said Major (Dr.) Correna Terrell, Chief of Breast Imaging at Wilford Hall. "There were a lot of patients at Kelly who were rescheduled for follow-up at Wilford Hall."

Other benefits are the educational services provided by Dorothy Phillips, a registered nurse at Wilford Hall, who conducts awareness briefings and breast exam courses as part of the DoD's Breast Care Initiative (BCI). Follow-up procedures and clinical appointments can also be immediately coordinated after the initial visit. These services are not available at Kelly.

"We were sending mammography technologists to Kelly to support their program," explained Terrell. "Then, to fill all the slots, we'd send Wilford Hall patients over there, too. Often, 90 percent of the patients on Kelly's schedule were actually from Wilford Hall."

Terrell anticipates patients and staff will experience minimal effects from the consolidation. "We think the change will be almost invisible. The patients will have better service and only a small number will need to drive a few extra miles." Minimal inconvenience for so much added benefit.

To make an appointment for a mammography, contact the Wilford Hall Medical Center appointment line at 292-6085.